

St. Francois County Sheriff's Department



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Detention Center

April 16, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: **Ex Parte Communication**
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The St. Francois County Sheriff's Department hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. My department supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to this office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if inmate calling services (ICS) are to continue to be widely available our jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service, a privilege, in our jail and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS, then we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate access altogether to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS and inmates are able to make calls fourteen hours per day (24/7 in our holding area).

Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

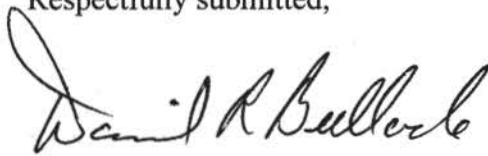
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Because of a flat economy in this region, our budget has not kept pace with our cost to operate in recent years. These funds have supplemented our security and operational needs in our jail. If the cost of allowing ICS must compete with all other budget needs, it will not be funded. However, if the cost of allowing ICS has its own source of funding, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process.

Accordingly, we incur significant costs in allowing inmate calling services in our jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover these costs to be able to continue inmate calling services and to encourage the continued deployment of inmate calling services in our jails.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Bullock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "B".

Daniel R. Bullock
Sheriff